

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07611 171520Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
SECSTATE WASHDC 3548

S E C R E T AMMAN 7611

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARN ONLY

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EAID, JO, XF
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR CROWN PRINCE HASSAN

REF: STATE 248584 (NOTAL)

1. WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD DELIVER
TEXT MESSAGE BELOW FROM AMBASSADOR FOR CROWN PRINCE HASSAN
OF JORDAN. MESSAGE CAN BE HANDED IN SEALED ENVELOPE TO DR.
SULTAN LUTFI OR COL AID KAMAL ON CROWN PRINCE'S STAFF TO
INSURE SECURE DELIVERY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,
YOU ASKED THAT I KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
AREA.

FIRST, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE DEVELOPED A PROCEDURAL PAPER
ON RECONVENING GENEVA WHICH I HAVE HANDED TO HIS MAJESTY
WHO HAS RESPONDED IN A VERY POSITIVE WAY. TO RESOLVE THE
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PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS OF RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE,
THE U.S. DEVELOPED SOME IDEAS ON TWO KEY QUESTIONS ON WHICH
THERE HAS TO BE SOME AGREEMENT IN ORDER FOR GENEVA TO MEET:
HOW THE PALESTINIANS ARE TO BE REPRESENTED, AND THE
STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE. THE PAPER WHICH WAS USED AS THE
BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS EVOLVED IN
LIGHT OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, IN WHICH WE SOUGHT FORMULATIONS

TO MEET THE MINIMAL VIEWS OF BOTH SIDES. THERE WERE WIDE DIVERGENCIES; ISRAEL MADE CLEAR IT WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO A PLO PRESENCE IN ANY FORM WHATEVER AND THE ARABS WERE EQUALLY ADAMANT IN INSISTING THE PLO MUST BE REPRESENTED. ON THE QUESTION OF ORGANIZATION, ISRAEL AND EGYPT PREFERRED THE FORMAT OF BILATERAL WORKING GROUPS, WHILE SYRIA AND JORDAN PREFERRED MULTILATERAL WORKING GROUPS ORGANIZED TO DEAL WITH FUNCTIONAL ISSUES AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PARTIES PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE IDEA OF A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION, IN WHICH THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE PRESENT, SEEMED TO US TO OFFER THE POSSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING THE IMPASSE. ON THE QUESTION OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE, WE FELT THAT A COMBINATION OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY. SOME ISSUES LOGICALLY WERE BILATERAL SUCH AS CONSIDERATION OF THE SINAI AND THE GOLAN. THE WEST BANK, GAZA, AND REFUGEE ISSUES WERE LOGICAL CANDIDATES FOR MULTILATERAL CONSIDERATION.

THESE CONCEPTS ARE EMBODIED IN A WORKING PAPER WHICH IS A U.S. PROPOSAL THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT TO THE EXTENT WE CONSIDERED FEASIBLE THE CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES. IT PROVIDES THAT AT THE OPENING SESSIONS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THERE WILL BE A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION WHICH WILL INCLUDE PALESTINIANS. THE QUESTION OF THE PRECISE COMPOSITION OF THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES REMAINS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PARTIES. ON THE QUESTION OF A CONFERENCE STRUCTURE,

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THE WORKING PAPER SUGGESTS THAT AFTER THE INITIAL PLENARY SESSIONS, IN WHICH THE ARAB SIDE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY A UNIFIED DELEGATION, THE CONFERENCE WOULD BREAK INTO WORKING GROUPS. THERE WOULD BE THREE BILATERAL WORKING GROUPS (ISRAEL-EGYPT, SYRIA-ISRAEL, JORDAN-ISRAEL) WITH A FOURTH BILATERAL (ISRAEL-LEBANON) TO BE ADDED AT SUCH TIME AS LEBANON REQUESTS TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE. THERE WOULD ALSO BE A MULTILATERAL WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS THE WEST BANK AND GAZA ON WHICH ISRAEL, JORDAN, EGYPT AND THE PALESTINIANS WOULD BE REPRESENTED.

THE WORKING PAPER TREATS THE REFUGEE ISSUE AS SEPARATE FROM THE ISSUE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, TO BE DISCUSSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS YET TO BE AGREED UPON. HOWEVER, IT IS INCLUDED IN THE PAPER TO SHOW THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED BY TERRITORIAL AGREEMENT ALONE; MANY PALESTINIANS ARE REFUGEES, AND THIS ASPECT HAS TO BE SOLVED AS WELL.

IN ADDITION, WE HAVE HEARD FROM THE ISRAELIS ABOUT OUR DRAFT PAPER ON MAQARIN WATER RIGHTS. IN EFFECT THEIR RESPONSE HAS BEEN TO SEEK GREATER DIRECT CONTACT WITH JORDAN IN THE POLITICAL AREA AND MORE WATER FOR THE ADASIYAH TRIANGLE AND THE WEST BANK IN THE TECHNICAL AREA. THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN BRIEFED

TO OMAR ABDULLAH ALONG WITH THE SUGGESTION FROM US THAT PERHAPS SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT USING THE MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION FORMAT (POSSIBLY WITH THE U.S. PRESENT) TO HELP RESOLVE THE POLITICAL QUESTION. OMAR VERY MUCH WANTS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH YOU BEFORE GOING FURTHER AS DO I. WE ARE STILL INTENT ON PLAYING OUR INFORMAL "GOOD OFFICES" ROLE AND I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO GIVING YOU A FULL FILL-IN ON YOUR RETURN.

IN NORTH YEMEN, THE SITUATION AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF AL-HAMDI REMAINS GREATLY CONFUSED AND I CAN OFFER NOTHING WHICH IS BASED ON HARD EVIDENCE AS TO THE CAUSE OR THE PERPETRATOR. COL AL-GHASHMI HAS TAKEN HOLD IN AL-HAMDI'S PLACE, BUT HE HIMSELF, AS ARE THE PEOPLE FROM PDRY, IS UNDER SUSPICION IN SOME QUARTERS.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUING SUCCESS ON YOUR TRIP WHICH FROM THE EXTENSIVE REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA
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HERE SEEMS OFF TO AN EXCELLENT START. ALICE JOINS ME IN SENDING YOU AND HER HIGHNESS AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY OUR WISHES FOR A CONTINUING GOOD JOURNEY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON YOUR RETURN. SINCERELY, TOM PICKERING.
END TEXT
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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